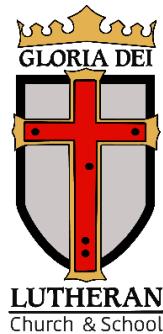


# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

## First Sunday of Christmas

### December 28, 2025

Building Faith  $\dagger$  Building Community  $\dagger$  Building Lives



**PRELUDE**

**In Dulci Jubilo**

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

**RINGING OF THE TOWER BELL**

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSIO N AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\dagger$  one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

*Kneel/Stand  
Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,  
**we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.**  
**We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.**  
**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.**  
**We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.**  
**Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you.  
 $\dagger$  Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.  
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN ELW 270 (*Stand*) **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*  
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

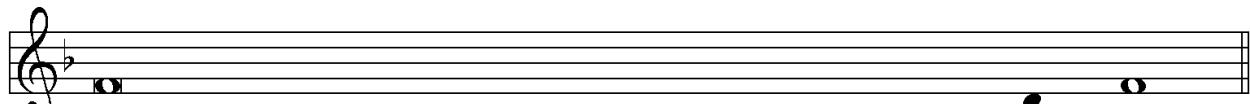
## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## KYRIE



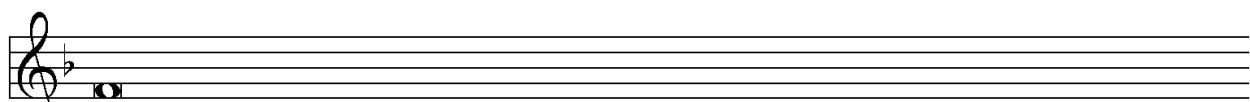
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



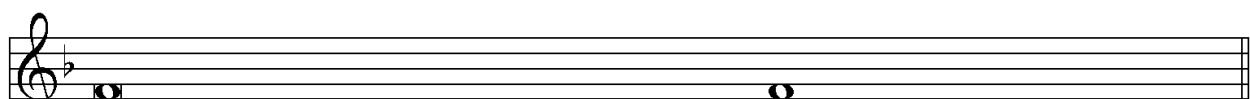
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



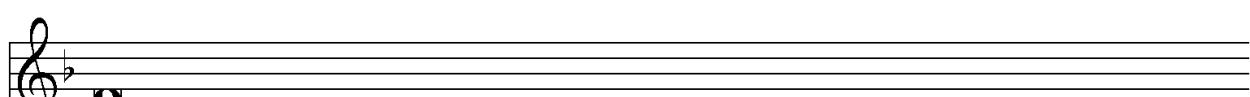
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



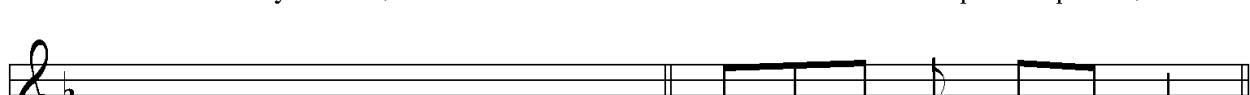
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



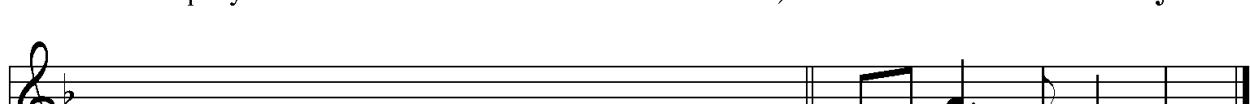
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

C This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was  
slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

C This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia. II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and  
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

C This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia. I Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and  
join in the hymn of all crea-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and  
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. II For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## THE WORD

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

**O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

*Congregation sits. Children are invited to come forward during the song and sit on the chancel steps.*

### WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

### This Little Light

*This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
 this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
 this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

## READINGS

A reading from Isaiah (63:7-9).

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,  
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,  
because of all that the LORD has done for us  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup> For he said, “Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,”  
and he became their savior  
<sup>9</sup> in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm (148) is read responsively.

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, all you angels;**  
**sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,**  
**and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forever and ever,**  
**giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and fog,**  
**tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle,**  
**creeping things and flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup> **young men and maidens,**  
**old and young together.**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,**  
**the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

A reading from Hebrews (2:10-18).

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup> saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

<sup>13</sup> And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Stand)**



C                    Al - le - lu - ia.    Lord, to whom shall we go?            You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life.                    Al - le - lu - ia.    Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the second chapter.

*Congregation sings:*



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

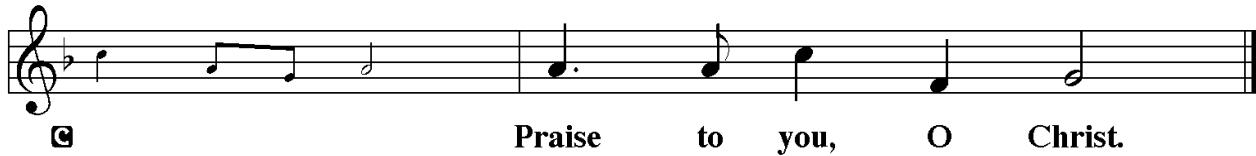
<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Congregation sings:*



Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON (*Sit*)

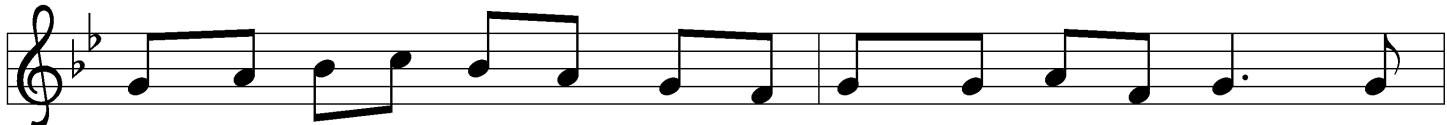
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 284 (Stand) 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

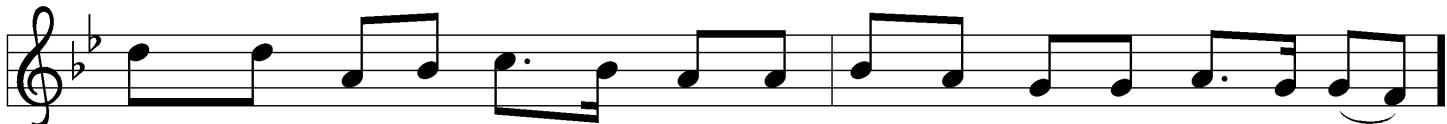
French folk tune



1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that  
 2 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a  
 3 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair as  
 4 O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the



\*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -  
 rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but  
 was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The  
 ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:  
 as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:  
 chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.  
 kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.

Refrain



Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\*Lower case “c” means universal.

## THE PRAYERS

*You are invited to either stand or kneel as you are able.*  
The response to each prayer will be *Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.*

## THE MEAL

### SHARING OF THE PEACE (*Stand*)

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
And also with you.

## OFFERING (Sit)

Support the mission and ministry of Gloria Dei by giving your financial tithes and offerings by:

- placing your offering envelope into the offering plate as it is passed.
- mailing to *Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 250 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669*.
- using the *Tithe.ly* app: <https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>.
- using online bill pay with your own banking institution, using your envelope number as your account number.

For electronic offerings, see back page for QR codes.

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

### Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Hancock*

## OFFERTORY HYMN (Stand)

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

**G** Let the vine - yards be fruit- ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath- er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore- taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**God of glory,**  
**great are your wonders among us**  
**and many are the blessings you bestow.**

**Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,**  
**that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,**  
**through Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread;**  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom,**  
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

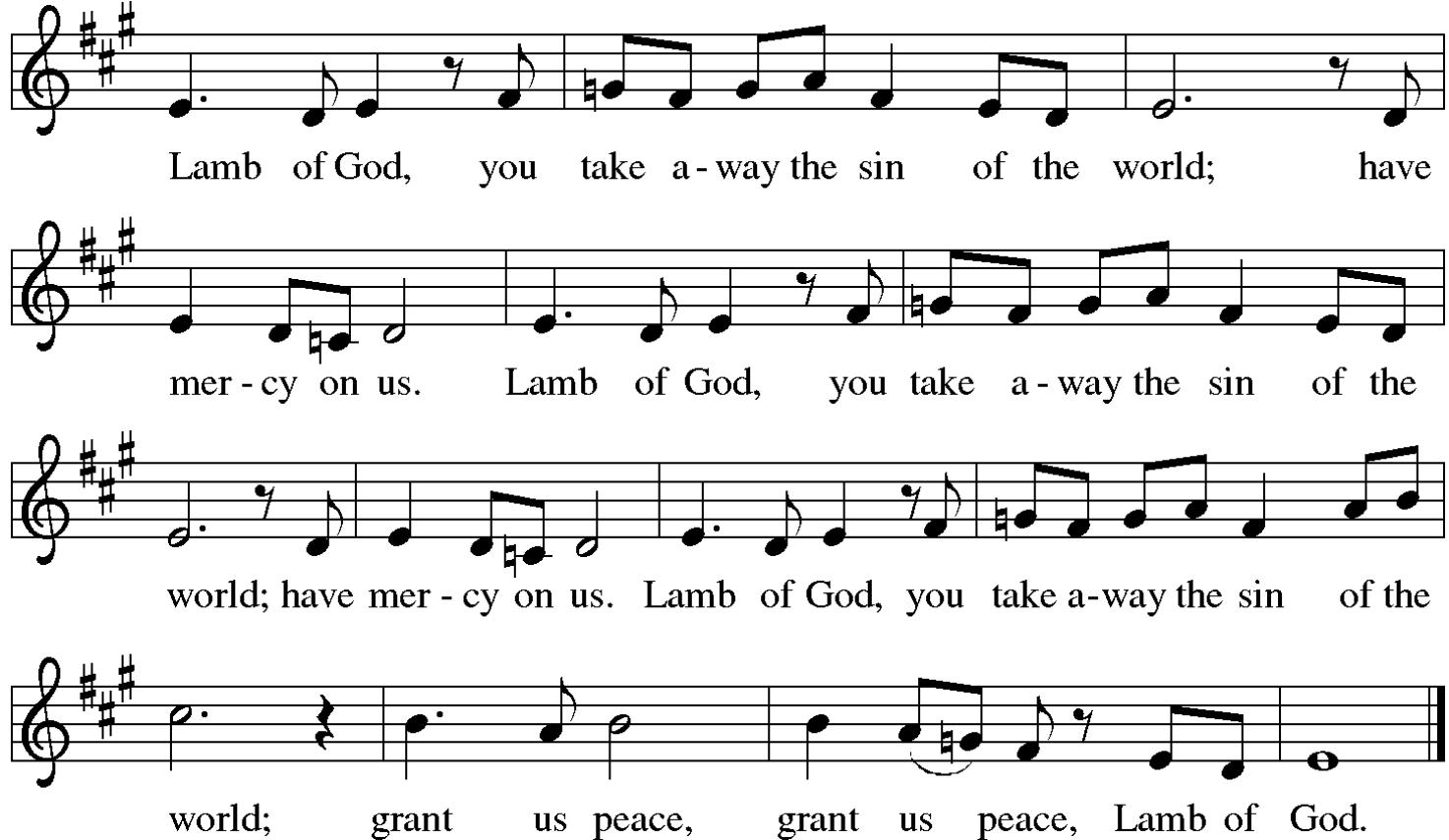
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

### COMMUNION RESPONSE (*Sit*)

### Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

*We believe that in the Eucharist our Lord Jesus Christ  
offers us His gifts of love and forgiveness. All are welcome to share in Communion.*

*If you would like to receive communion by common cup instead of individual cups of wine or grape juice, after  
you consume your wafer, hold your hands out (palms up), just like you did for your wafer.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN ELW 279

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## COMMUNION HYMN ELW 296

## What Child Is This

## Greensleeves

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

## SENDING

### BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL (*Stand*)

God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!  
Amen.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:  
**Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.**  
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts  
the mystery of your presence.  
Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us.  
Amen.

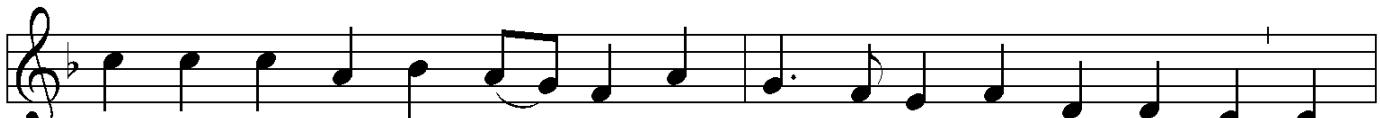
### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'-ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proudly bear his name.

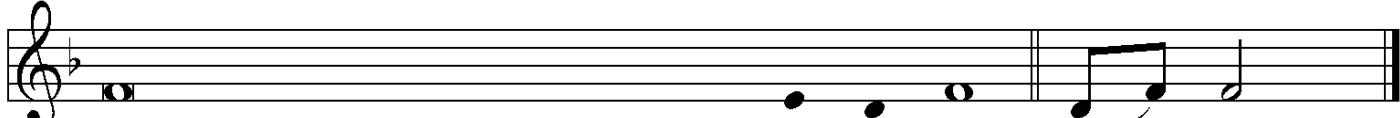


He re - calls his prom- is - es and leads his peo- ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks- giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### BENEDICTION

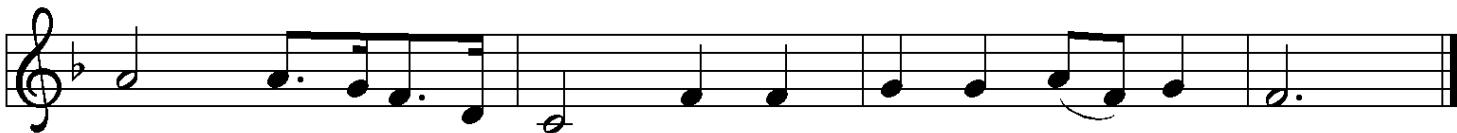


**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and **+** give you peace.

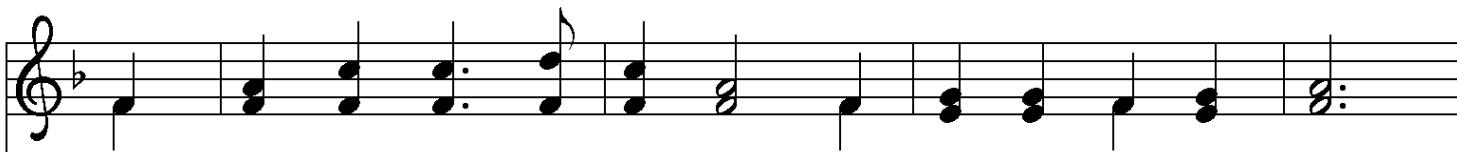
**C** A - men

**SENDING HYMN ELW 290****Go Tell It on the Mountain***Go tell it**Refrain*

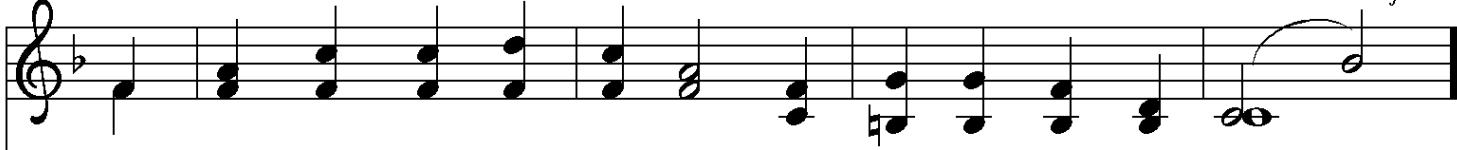
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



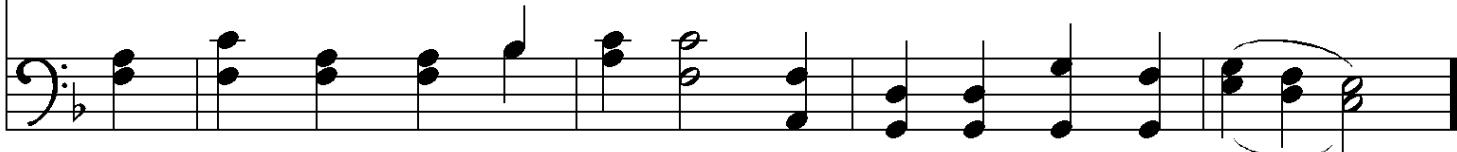
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS (Sit)****POSTLUDE****O Come, All Ye Faithful***Flor Peeters*

*Please take this time to ponder what Christ may be calling you/us to do through today's prayers, readings, sermons, and hymns as we listen to the postlude. If you are particularly moved by the Postlude, please hold your applause and congratulate the musician in person after worship.*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



# GLORIA DEI WEEKLY

250 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669-1793

Telephone (757) 851-2838 FAX (757) 850-3935

[www.gloriadeilutheranchurch.net](http://www.gloriadeilutheranchurch.net) e-mail: [GDLC@gloriadei.net](mailto:GDLC@gloriadei.net)

Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, (757) 873-2273, [peninsulapastoral.org](mailto:peninsulapastoral.org)

Permission to stream and print today's music is obtained through Augsburg, #SAS028379, One License, #A-730790 and CCLI, #11514371.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS are available for each Sunday's service on the table in the Atrium.

PARENTS, if you would like your child to have a coloring book and colored pencils during worship, please ask an usher.

RESTROOMS are located in the Atrium.

INDIVIDUAL HEARING AIDS are available from the ushers. Please return them to an usher after the service.

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God in celebration of the Christmas Blessing, the birth of Jesus!

## Serving Today

COFFEE CREATORS: Dawn Lomax, Mary Mace

GREETER: Rita Foringer

LAY ASSISTANT: Diane Washburn

READER: Jeane Fullen

TECHNICAL TEAM: Jeremiah Green, Barry Hutchison, Derry Mace, Mike Riley, Aaron Sutherland, Jenny Sutherland

USHERS: Jason Green, Tim Olson

## Annual Coat Drive

### Through Today, December 28

Andrew Sutherland is kicking off his annual coat drive. He is collecting coats and many other items for the homeless this winter. There is a collection box in the Atrium. He collects items for men, women, and children. All items are distributed with Hampton Roads Ecumenical Lodgings and Provisions (H.E.L.P.) at *A Night's Welcome* shelters in Hampton and the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula.

#### WINTER GEAR Items collected (PLEASE no spring and summer items):

\*Coat

\*Hats

\*Belts

\*Gloves

\*Sweatshirts

\*Scarves

\*Backpacks

\*Socks

\*Sweaters

\*Long-sleeve shirts

Please share the news with your family, friends, coworkers and neighbors. Feel free to call with any questions, 757-513-4943.

Thank you for your support!!

## Community Bible Study

### We will not meet on Wednesday, December 31.

Our weekly Community Bible Study is held at H.E.L.P., 329 Buckroe Avenue, on Wednesdays at noon. All are invited to attend.

## Unhanging of the Greens

Sunday, January 4, 2026, following the worship service.

## Blood Drive



Red Cross Blood Drive

January 18

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Flower Calendar

The 2026 flower calendar is posted just outside the Nave for those wishing to give flowers for our Sunday worship services. These flowers cost approximately \$65.00. You may designate your flowers in celebration of something, in memory of someone, in honor of someone, to the glory of God, etc. You will be billed directly by *Jeff's Flowers, Of Course*. Thank you!

## QR Codes for Online Giving to Gloria Dei

If you would like to give electronically to Gloria Dei, you can do so by scanning one of the QR codes below.

Tithe.ly



PayPal



Venmo

